

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FRAHM. Thank you, Mr. President.

MY DEDICATED STAFF

Mrs. FRAHM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my gratitude for a group of individuals who all too often don't receive the credit that they deserve, but we all know in this Chamber that they help to make everything happen. I am speaking of the staff, and particularly the staff that has served and supported me since the day I was sworn in as Senator.

When Senator Dole departed this Chamber, among his rich legacy was a dedicated group of individuals totally committed to him and equally devoted to the State of Kansas. I was fortunate to inherit this group of professionals, and together we have completed much of the work for Kansas that Senator Dole had begun. Their experience, their knowledge, and their tireless efforts on behalf of our State has once again helped to make a difference.

To Bob Dole, public service has been both an honorable and a worthy pursuit. "Making a difference" is how Bob puts it. In the Dole lexicon, there is no higher compliment than to tell someone that they have made a difference. If he were here today, I know Bob Dole would join me and the U.S. Senate in thanking our Hart Office staff, Sarah Brown, Darren Dick, Keira Franz, Ruth Ann Komarek, Tom Lewis, Kevin Linskey, Megan Lucas, Nathan Muyskens, Lisa Reynolds, Ron Seeber, Janet Sena, Amy Smith, Dan Stanley, Erin Streeter, David Wilson, and Mike Torrey for all of the loyal service they have given this body and to Kansas.

As Bob Dole would put it, "You have made a difference."

As each of the Senators know, the people who work in our State offices provide that vital link between the people and their Government. They serve on the front lines. They help people in need, listen to their problems, receive the brunt of their frustrations, and in our absence these people toil daily in an effort to connect the Government to people's lives. I want to pay special tribute to our State office staff, Chuck Alderson, Judy Brown, Alan Cobb, Romona Corbin, Diana Doms, Gale Grosch, Dave Spears, and Cathie Yeager. Kansas is proud and deeply appreciative of their service.

There are five other special people who have been with me from the beginning that I would also like to thank. They are Trent Ledoux, Bruce Lott, Jim Rowland, Gayle Shaw, and Dave Young. Their service to me and to Kansas will always be remembered and appreciated.

Mr. President, thank you.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I ask to be recognized to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

SALUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I begin by paying my respects to those Senators who are departing this body. One of the great privileges for me has been to have worked with them. I think each in his own right has added considerably to the dimension of the Senate, and particularly one Senator, NANCY KASSEBAUM, I wish to salute her for her many additions. I have had the occasion to sit on the Foreign Relations Committee with her and to observe her and watch her and see her do her homework. For me as a woman this has been a very special experience. So I want to particularly salute her and also to thank the departing Senators for all of the courtesies they have extended to me and to the State of California.

REACHING ACCOMMODATION ON THE PARKS BILL

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I echo the comments of my colleague, Senator BOXER, on the parks bill in the hopes that some accommodation can be formulated in the next few hours that will give us a bill.

One of the most difficult things about this body, and I suppose any other body, is that we do not always get what we would like to get or think we deserve in good conscience or what the body owes or what the Government should respond to. However, this is an important bill, and literally dozens of States are impacted, all of them positively, by this bill. For California, it is a particularly important bill.

I thank the chairman of the committee for his indulgence, and I hope in the next few hours there can be some conclusion to this which will bring before us a bill that is significant for every Member of this body.

PENDING JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I want to address my remarks today to pending judicial nominations. It is my understanding that there may be some agreement to bring forward some additional judicial appointments before this Senate adjourns. I certainly hope that is the case. I want to point out five specific judges, relating to California, some of which have been before this body for a substantial period of time, and the importance of those nominations.

We essentially have two appointments to the Ninth Circuit Court of

Appeals which could be filled by this Senate in the next day. The first is William Fletcher. He is a Harvard College graduate. He is a Rhodes Scholar. He is a Navy officer. He is a graduate of Yale Law School. He has been a law clerk for Justice Brennan, and a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley since 1977. He actually received the university's distinguished teaching award in 1993.

I was sitting on the Judiciary Committee when he came up for review. He passed that committee with a favorable recommendation by a vote of 12 to 6. At that time there was some concern about his mother's service on the ninth circuit. An overture was made, as to whether his mother would be willing to either retire or take senior status. She has since said that she would be willing to take senior status to avoid any tinge of nepotism, should he be appointed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

I might say this. The American Bar Association has unanimously rated Professor Fletcher, "well qualified." That is its highest rating. His academic colleagues have stated to us that he is fair minded and politically moderate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a number of letters regarding Professor Fletcher's nomination be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. It is very hard to understand why he has been lingering on the Executive Calendar, essentially since May 16, without our having an opportunity to discuss his candidacy on the floor of the U.S. Senate. I hope we would have that opportunity. I think it is important that we do so.

Another candidate who has been waiting before this body since June 27, when she passed the Judiciary Committee on a unanimous vote, is Margaret Morrow, who has been nominated for District Judge in the Central District of California, in Los Angeles. She is a graduate of Bryn Mawr magna cum laude. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School, cum laude. She is a partner in a prominent Los Angeles law firm.

She has won the Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award from the California Judicial Council in 1995. She has received the Ernestine Stalhut Award for the most distinguished woman lawyer in Los Angeles. She has received the President's award from the California Association of Court-Appointed Special Advocates. She has received the Pro Bono Advocacy Award from the Western Center on Law and Poverty. She has received a number of special awards.

She is the first woman president of the California Bar Association and served as president of the Los Angeles Bar Association. She was found also to be "well qualified."